ANNUAL REPORT 1989-1990

Ministry of Parks

Province of British Columbia
Ministry of Parks
Hon. John L. Savage, Minister

BC Parks

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To His Honour
The Lieutenant Governor of the
Province of British Columbia

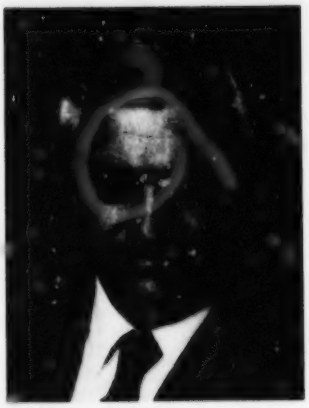
May It Please Your Honour:

Herewith, I respectively submit the Annual Report of the Ministry of Parks for the period April 1, 1989 to March 31, 1990, during which time the Hon. Ivan Messmer was Minister.

Respectfully submitted,

John L. Savage

Hon. John L. Savage
Minister of Parks



Hon. John L. Savage, Minister of Parks

Honourable John L. Savage
Minister of Parks

Sir:

I have the honour to submit the annual report of the British Columbia Ministry of Parks for the period from April 1, 1989 to March 31, 1990.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen R. Stackhouse

Stephen R. Stackhouse
Deputy Minister

ANNUAL REPORT 1989-1990

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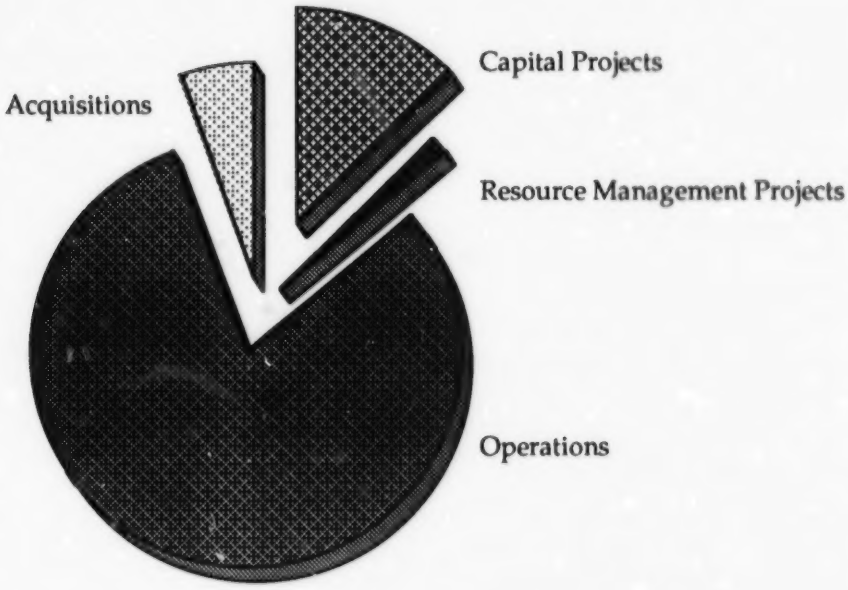
Budget Summary



Capital Projects	4,689,000
Resource Management Projects	403,000
Operations	29,193,000
Parks Vote Total	**$34,285,000**
Crown Land Fund (Acquisitions)	2,051,000
TOTAL	**$36,336,000**

Ministry Overview

During 1989/90, the government continued to emphasize the protection and management of British Columbia's natural heritage. The Ministry of Parks received many comments as a result of the January 1988 release of Striking the Balance, the Ministry's first policy statement. In its second printing, in 1989, Striking the Balance was adjusted to reflect this public input.

BC Parks' commitment to British Columbians is twofold:

- conserve and manage for future generations a wide variety of outstanding park lands which represent the best natural recreation features and diverse wilderness environments of the province; and,
- provide province-wide opportunities for a diversity of high-quality, safe outdoor recreation that is compatible with conserving the natural environment.

BC Parks demonstrates its commitment to parks through a number of projects, ranging from basic inventory of resources — knowing just what we have in our parks (their location and condition) — to specific actions such as improving fish habitat and protecting old growth forests.

As an indicator of the Ministry's commitment to completing a park system that serves all British Columbians' interests, nine new parks covering more than 13,000 hectares were added to the park system and are now fully protected for use by the public in perpetuity.

In the area of park operations, 1989/90 was the second year of a three-year program to have all auto-accessible day use areas and campgrounds maintained by private sector contractors. The program has built on last year's successes. In this program, the Ministry of Parks retains management control of the provincial park system. It sets standards of performance and campground fees, and retains ownership of both land and facilities, while the contractors provide services. Contractors collect fees,

BC Parks is committed to:

- ❑ *conserving parks for future generations*
- ❑ *providing high-quality, safe outdoor recreation.*

- *152 parks have operation permits for campgrounds and day use areas*
- *$4.6 million to improve park facilities*

supplementing their contract price with campground revenues.

In 1989/90, 105 operations permits, covering 152 parks, were issued under this program. Next year, the third year of the program, all 184 parks with campgrounds or day use areas which can be reached by road will have services delivered through such operation contracts.

Funding for park operations increased to $29.1 million. These funds were used to manage new parks and to extend the operating season in many popular parks throughout the province.

Replacing, repairing and upgrading park facilities requires increased funding as park facilities grow older. In 1989/90, $4.6 million was allocated to these activities. Included in this amount is $1 million as part of a multi-year program to upgrade heavily-used washroom buildings with modern facilities and showers. The provision of showers and flush toilets in selected areas is in direct response to wishes expressed in visitor surveys.

Mandate

BC Parks is responsible for the designation, management and conservation of a land- and water-based system of parks, recreation areas and ecological reserves containing the best representative elements of British Columbia's natural and cultural heritage for the inspiration and recreational use of British Columbians and their visitors.

The Ministry also represents the outdoor recreation interests of British Columbians in the allocation and use of land resources throughout the province.

BC Parks services are delivered throughout B.C. through 13 District Parks offices and the Ministry manages activities in three program areas: Provincial Parks, Ecological Reserves and Outdoor Recreation.

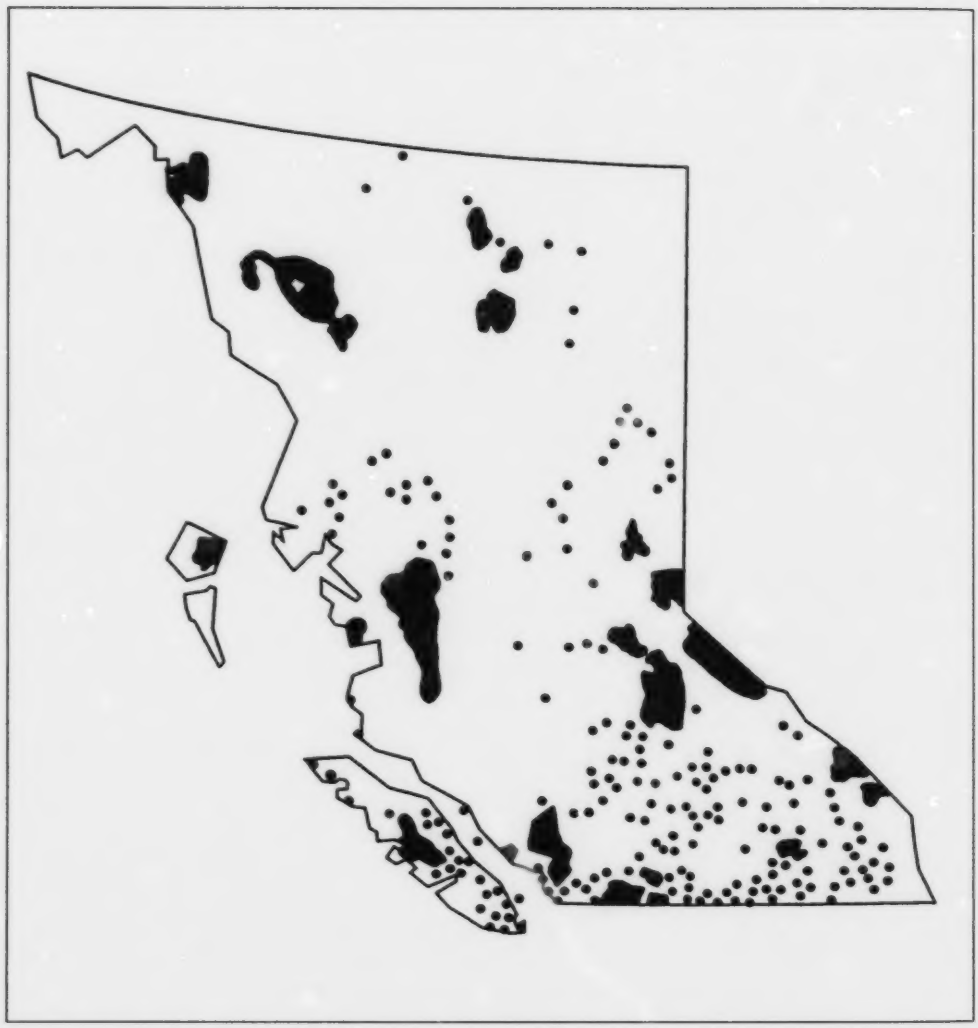
Legislation Administered:

Park Act

Ecological Reserves Act

Park (Regional) Act

- *Our mission is to protect and manage outstanding examples of British Columbia's natural and cultural environment for public benefit and use.*



British Columbia

Provincial Park System

Provincial Parks

On March 31, 1990, the provincial park system contained 388 parks and recreation areas covering 5,364,000 hectares. BC Parks managed facilities with a value of approximately $300 million. The number of visitors in 1989 increased five per cent over 1988 to 20.6 million recorded visits.

Park Lands

Approximately $2,050,988 was spent on the acquisition of park lands in 1989-90. A total of 3,026 hectares of land was added to the park system.

Highlights are:

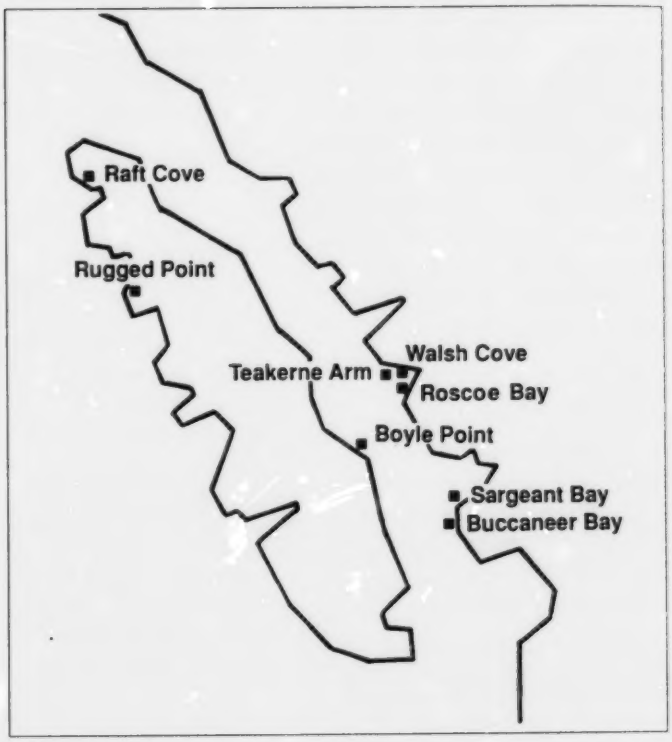
1. Four parcels of privately owned lands within existing parks were purchased and added to Tweedsmuir (2), Cape Scott (1) and Naikoon (1) Parks.
2. $8,000 was spent on acquiring land for Pacific Rim National Park.
3. To more completely protect park resources, 46 mineral claims were purchased in Tweedsmuir (30), Kokanee Glacier (15) and Strathcona (1) Parks.
4. Eleven (11) new areas were designated as Class A provincial parks; one (1) new area was designated as a recreation area:

- Juniper Beach Park, 260 hectares, was established in May, 1989. It is located on the Thompson River, 19 kilometres west of Cache Creek, and provides excellent river fishing opportunites;
- Raft Cove Park is eight kilometres south of Cape Scott Park and includes 265 hectares of foreshore and 405 hectares of forest upland, which were transferred from a tree farm licence held by Western Forest Products;
- Kekuli Bay Park, 11 kilometres south of Vernon, is a 57-hectare park, five of which is foreshore. The park, which includes a boat launch, provides excellent water access to Kalamalka Lake;
- Sargeant Bay Park, a 57-hectare parcel of land located seven kilometres west of Sechelt, features 1,300

- *388 parks*
- *5.3 million hectares*
- *Assets worth $300 million*

❑ *New parks were created at:*

- *Boyle Point*
- *Buccaneer Bay*
- *Raft Cove*
- *Roscoe Bay*
- *Rugged Point*
- *Sargeant Bay*
- *Teakerne Arm*
- *Walsh Cove.*



Provincial Parks

Created on Coastal B.C.

in 1989/90

feet of shingle beach and is known for its rich waterfowl habitat;

- Buccaneer Bay Park is a one-hectare marine park on Thormanby Island off the Sunshine Coast in Georgia Strait;
- Roscoe Bay Park, created in August of 1989, is a 247-hectare marine park near Desolation Sound;
- Rugged Point Park is a 518-hectare marine park located on Kyuquot Channel on the West Coast of Vancouver Island;
- Teakerne Arm Park, 128 hectares, features magnificent waterfalls and is located on West Redona Island;
- Walsh Cove Park is an 85-hectare marine park on West Redonda Island with 46 hectares of foreshore. It protects a popular anchorage which is an excellent staging area for exploring the surrounding area;
- Boyle Point Park, 125 hectares on the south tip of Denman Island, encompasses an excellent second growth Douglas fir forest with scattered old growth Grand fir and Douglas fir;
- Andrew Bay Park, 45 hectares, will provide important recreational access to Ootsa Lake in the Burns Lake - Houston area; and,
- Sowchea Bay Recreation Area is a popular recreation site of 13 hectares on the southeast shore of Stuart Lake, near Fort St. James.

- *New parks were created at:*
  - *Andrew Bay;*
  - *Juniper Beach*
  - *Kekuli Bay.*
- *A new recreation area was created at Sowchea Bay.*

Provincial Parks Created in Central B.C. in 1989/90

Park System as of March 31, 1990

TYPE	NUMBER	AREA (Ha.)
Class "A"	321	4,257,860
Class "B"	2	3,778
Class "C"	28	816
Recreation Area	36	973,887
Wilderness Conservancy	1	131,523
Total Parkland	388	5,367,864

Changes to the Provincial Park System
1989/90 Fiscal Year

New Parks/Recreation Areas	AREA (ha)		AREA (ha)
Andrew Bay Park	45	Boyle Point Park	125
Buccaneer Bay Park	1	Juniper Beach Park	260
Kekuli Bay Park	57	Raft Cove Park	670
Roscoe Bay Park	247	Rugged Point Park	518
Sargeant Bay Park	57	Sowchea Bay Recreation Area	13
Teakerne Arm Park	128	Walsh Cove Park	85

TOTAL **2206**

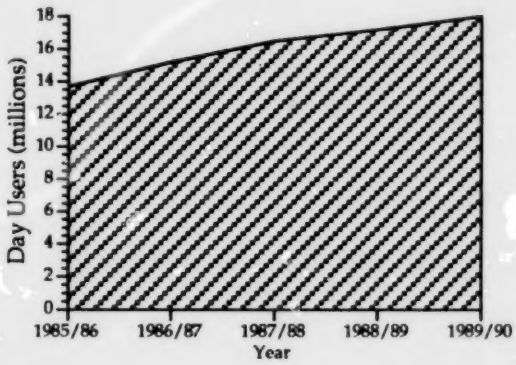
Additions to Existing Parks/Recreation Areas

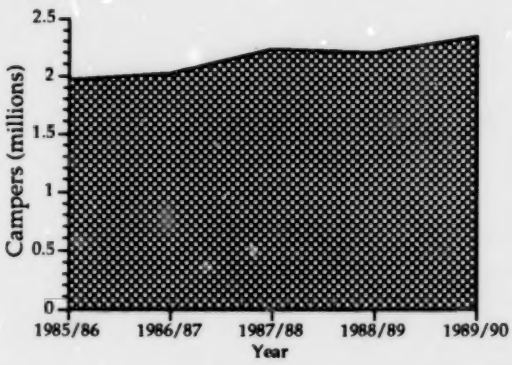
Coquihalla Canyon Recreation Area	20	Garibaldi Park	580
Horne Lake Caves Park	46	Inkaneep Park	12
John Dean Park	19	Shannon Falls Park	77
Squitty Bay Marine Park	6	Sun-Oka Beach Park	9
Valhalla Park	200		

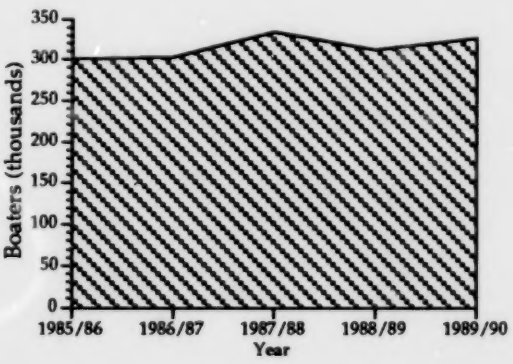
TOTAL **969**

TOTAL AREA ADDED TO SYSTEM **3,026**

Visitor Trends







Park Use

Visits to B.C.'s parks increased in 1989 by five per cent from 1988, reaching a total of more than 20.6 million visitor days, the highest level ever recorded. This increase was largely due to increases in visits to day-use areas, although more people camped throughout the system.

Park visitor satisfaction was monitored and tabulated in 113 areas of the provincial park system. Surveys were conducted in 65 campgrounds, 35 day-use areas, nine backcountry areas, and four marine parks. More than 9,000 park visitors (59 per cent of those approached) offered opinions on services and facilities in provincial parks. Marine parks were given the highest overall rating (of excellent or above average) at 97 per cent by visitors who were asked if they would recommend a park to a friend. The overall rating of excellent or above average for campground users was 84 per cent, while day-use areas and backcountry areas were 80 per cent and 97 per cent respectively.

Visitor Programs

BC Parks had 44 parks with interpretation programs. These education programs include those in visitor centres, one-to-one contacts in campgrounds and public presentations. Programs are delivered primarily by contractors. Through these programs, BC Parks contacted 650,000 visitors, about half of which attended actual presentations.

Program themes, in order of emphasis, were: natural history, park awareness, cultural history, safety skills and park-related entertainment. The entertainment programs were best attended.

Children were targeted through spring and fall school programs and through the **Jerry's Rangers Program** (a junior naturalist program) in the summer. Approximately 24,000 and 15,000 children attended these programs respectively.

Park publications were distributed to the public throughout British Columbia at more than 146

- *20.6 million visitors*
- *2.2 million campers in 11,400 sites*
- *650,000 participated in visitor programs*

Tourism Travel Infocentres. More than 60 publications followed three basic formats:

- regional brochures, identifying park locations and amenities on Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland; the Cariboo, Okanagan and Shuswap areas; the Kootenays, and Northern British Columbia;
- park brochures which describe individual park opportunities and features; and,
- publications about nature that may be found within provincial parks.

Volunteers provided valuable services to park visitors. The number of volunteers in 1989 continued to grow. Volunteers contributed to many projects such as the salmon program at Goldstream Park, a variety of special events, and trail maintenance in a number of backcountry parks.

The **Park Host Program**, where volunteers camp on-site for the summer and provide information about the park and surrounding area, proved popular and beneficial to users who may be unfamiliar with the park and surrounding area. More than 200 park hosts assisted visitors in parks during 1989.

Park Security

Park rangers recorded 64,748 patrol hours and there were 31,471 occurrences reported in 1989. The number of disturbances increased from 6,354 in 1988 to 7,948 in 1989. There were 43 injuries and 24 deaths reported in provincial parks. A six percent increase in theft from visitors was reported in 1989.

In backcountry areas of parks, rangers ensured visitors enjoyed the wilderness areas while adhering to regulations of the Park Act which protect and conserve backcountry resources. Rangers also watched for fires, participated in search and rescue missions as requiredand carried out routine mai[illegible]nance.

Promotions

To ensure residents and tourists were aware of park opportunities, BC Parks worked with the private sector **promotional activities**. For example, the Ministry produced *Open Doors to Adventure*. This publication looked at park experiences and activities through the eyes of some prominent British Columbians, including broadcaster Jack Webster.

Park Management — Yearly Comparison

	87/88	88/89	89/90
VISITS:[1]			
Campground Use	2,226,992	2,205,366	2,343,933
Day Use	16,473,431	17,124,167	17,936,990
Boating Use	333,827	312,483	325,879
TOTAL VISITS	**19,034,250**	**19,642,016**	**20,606,802**
REVENUE ($000):			
Campground	4,108	3,735	1,732
Park Use Permits & Concession	239	863	501
TOTALS	**4,347**	**4,598**	**2,233**
EXPENDITURES (000$):			
CROWN LAND FUND:			
Land Acquisition	2,732	1,280	2,051
PARKS VOTE:			
Resource Management Project	N/A	310	403
Capital Projects	2,415	4,371	4,689
Operations	25,829	27,430	29,193
TOTALS	**30,976**	**33,391**	**36,336**
Adjusted Operation[2]	27,822	28,582	29,193
Adjusted Total[2]	**33,439**	**34,793**	**36,336**
STAFFING (PERSON YEARS):			
Yearly	268	244	264
Seasonal	218	175	137
TOTALS	**486**	**419**	**401**
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INDICATORS:			
Park Hectares (thousand)	5,361.6	5,364.7	5,367.8
BC Population (thousand)[4]	2,925.7	2,984.0	3047.2
Park area per resident (hectares)	1.82	1.80	1.76
Park investment/resident (adjusted $)	11.43	11.66	11.92
Important landscapes represented	36/57	41/57	41/59
Important Management plans completed	40/70	30/72	36/74
VISITOR SERVICES INDICATORS:			
Visitors per staff man year	39,165	46,878	51,388
Operation cost/visitor (adjusted $)	1.46	1.46	1.42
Visitors/campsite[5]	61	61	64

[1] Visitation is for calendar year ending in fiscal year.
[2] Expenditures adjusted for inflation to 89/90 fiscal Vancouver C.P.I.
[3] Hectares for calendar year ending in fiscal year.
[4] Central Statistics Bureau, Projection 15, April 89, as of June 1 of the year stated.
[5] Camper party nights divided by campsites.

Managing Park Resources

Master plans provide the long term direction for dealing with issues which involve the protection of resources and development of parks for public recreational enjoyment. Issues such as boundary adjustments, recreational use zoning, forest and wildlife management, protection of rare or endangered species of plants and animals and major inventory studies, are discussed, and direction given, in the master plan.

This year, four major master plans were approved: Cathedral Park near Keremeos; Mt. Assiniboine Park in the Rocky Mountains; Eskers Park near Prince George and Tribune Bay/ Helliwell/Sandy Island/ Fillongley parks on Denman and Hornby Islands near Courtenay.

This year, BC Parks participated in the **Wildlife Watch Program**, initiated by the Ministry of Environment. The program which also includes the private sector and other ministries involves inventory, planning and facility construction that encourage public viewing of wildlife.

In 1989/90, the program included 13 parks across the province. Designated park wildlife viewing areas include Sidney Spit Marine Park in the Gulf Islands, Goldstream Park near Victoria and, Muncho Lake Park on the Alaska Highway.

Grizzly bears, an often misunderstood wildlife concern to park visitors, are the topic of research initiated in South Tweedsmuir Park. This study is intended to discover the number of bears, the health of the population and the bears' seasonal use of ecosystems inside and outside the park.

Coastal provincial parks and ecological reserves contain an estimated five per cent of British Columbia's remaining harvestable old growth forest. BC Parks was represented as an important stakeholder in the Ministry of Forests' sponsored Old Growth Forests Symposium held

at Parksville in November, 1989. The Ministry of Parks is a participant in an interagency Task Force on Old Growth. The Task Force's role is to address the issues associated with conserving some of British Columbia's remaining old growth forests.

The Strathcona Park Steering Committee was established to review the park's boundaries. Their activities included three public meetings and the presentation of recommendations to the Minister of Parks on changes to the boundaries.

The following is a summary of 1989/90 accomplishments in the Ministry's conservation program:

1. Completed a major program to update inventories of wildlife in a variety of parks. More specifically, mountain goats were surveyed in Wells Grey Park, Cathedral Park, Monashee Park, Valhalla Park, Nancy Greene Recreation Area, Kokanee Glacier Park, the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy, Elk Lakes Park and Recreation Area, Garibaldi Park, Gitnadoix River Recreation Area and Tatlatui Park. Other wildlife surveys included a caribou survey in Tweedsmuir Park and moose surveys in Spatsizi Park and the Stikine River Recreation Area.
2. Completed surveys and fisheries management plans for Valhalla Park, Kokanee Glacier Park, Elk Lakes Park, Eneas Lake Park, Nickel Plate Park, Okanagan Mountain Park, and the Akamina-Kishinena Recreation Area. Fisheries assessments were undertaken in Bowron Lakes Park and Gitnadoix River Recreation Area to provide management direction for the protection of these well-used resources.
3. Completed a major biophysical inventory of the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment. This inventory is being used in the

development of management plans for wildlife, vegetation and visitor services.

4. Initiated a two-year program involving a biophysical inventory of Kalamalka Lake Park in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment. This inventory will be used as the basis for the development of a prototype resource management plan for similar parks in the region.

5. Bear habitat assessments were completed for Bowron Lake Park, Monkman Park and the main trail areas in Mt. Robson Park. The objective was to identify the degree of hazard for bear - people encounters. Follow-up work is now underway to reduce hazards in identified areas. A prototype district bear management plan for the West Kootenay parks district was also completed. This plan provides for improving park management practices, staff and contractor training and facility development to reduce conflicts with black and grizzly bear in both backcountry and roadside parks.

6. Initiated a three-year program involving a major archaeological investigation of Top of the World Park. This is an important step in the development of a management plan for the protection and interpretation of these provincially significant resources.

7. Completed impact assessments in Akamina-Kishinena Recreation Area, Mt. Assiniboine Park and Elk Lakes Park and Recreation Area to determine the impact of horse and/or human use. These assessments were used to prepare guidelines for trail development and to assure overuse does not damage sensitive parks environments.

8. Completed a fire management plan for Cathedral Park, which provided guidelines for

Operational Permits Program

ADMINISTRATING OFFICE	NUMBER OF PARKS		
	Number Contracted 88/89	Number Contracted 89/90	Total to be Contracted 90/91
Strathcona District	0	14	16
Malahat District	0	13	23
Fraser Valley District	4	9	11
Garibaldi/Sunshine District	0	6	9
Vancouver District	-	-	2
SOUTH COAST REGION TOTALS	**4**	**42**	**61**
Thompson River District	8	20	23
Okanagan District	12	16	19
West Kootenay District	4	18	24
East Kootenay District	10	15	16
SOUTHERN INTERIOR REGION TOTALS	**34**	**69**	**82**
Skeena District	4	9	14
Cariboo District	4	11	14
Prince George District	0	4	9
Peace/Liard District	1	17	17
NORTHERN B.C. REGION TOTALS	**9**	**41**	**54**
PROVINCIAL TOTALS	**47**	**152**	**197**

park managers and fire suppression staff on appropriate fire suppression action, as well as the use of fire as a management tool.

9. An archaelogical assessment was completed for Hakai and Fiordland Recreation Areas, to identify the location and significance of the many sites. This information is basic to managing the resource so as to avoid damage to these very sensitive areas.

10. In Mt. Robson Park, a survey was commissioned to identify locations along the highway corridor where wildlife habitat can be improved to compensate for reductions resulting from the aging forest. Improved habitat may also help reduce wildlife losses on road and railways.

11. As a result of concern for the stability of petroglyphs in Petroglyph Provincial Park, an assessment was carried out through the Heritage Conservation Branch.

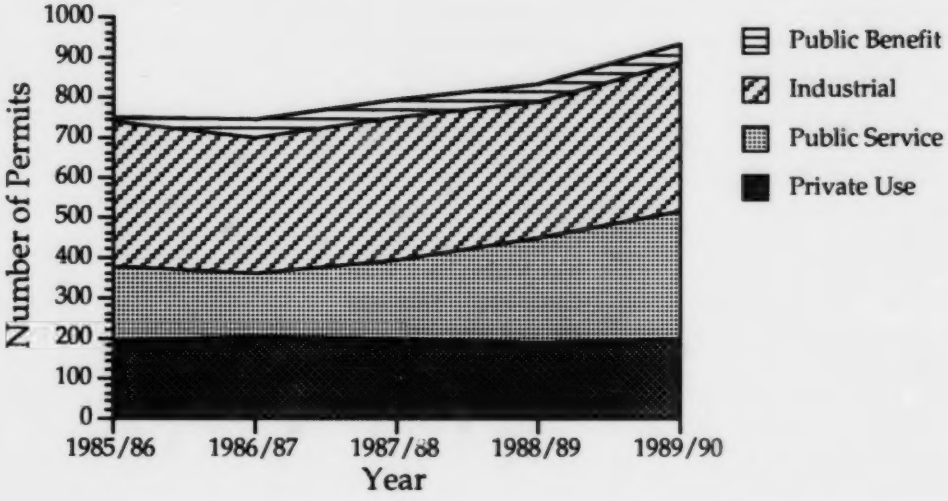
12. With the assistance of the Royal British Columbia Museum, an assessment of the heritage values of farm implements found in Ruckle Park was carried out.

13. A survey and map of channels of the Cameron River within MacMillan Park was completed. This was the first stage in preparation of a water management - erosion control plan to protect the famous stand of old growth trees.

14. Baseline marine inventories of biological and physical features were completed for Botanical Beach Park and Porteau Cove Park. At Porteau, a habitat assessment of the effectiveness of existing subtidal habitat enhancement, artifical reefs and wrecks was made as a way of improving recreational diving opportunities.

15. An ambitious revegetation project was initiated for the Red Heather Ridge portion of Garibaldi

Resource/Park Use Permits



TYPE	85/86	86/87	87/88	88/89	89/90
Private Purposes (cabins, access roads, etc.)	195	203	197	187	199
Public Service (guiding, resorts, etc.)	178	159	196	261	316
Industrial/Commercial Use (pipelines, transmission lines, etc.)	362	338	355	337	374
Provincial or National Public Benefit (scientific research, movies, etc.)	15	45	45	48	43
TOTALS	**750**	**745**	**793**	**833**	**932**

Park. This is expected to be a multi-year project involving trail relocation and trials of a variety of revegetation techniques to assess their effectiveness for future use.

16. The Mountain Pine Beetle control program for EC Manning Park continued for the sixth year. This program is expected to be an annual operational project, designed to control the loss of the park's pine forests.

Park and Resource Use Permits are a major tool for managing park resources and commercial activities within parks. Some of the highlights of the permit program are:

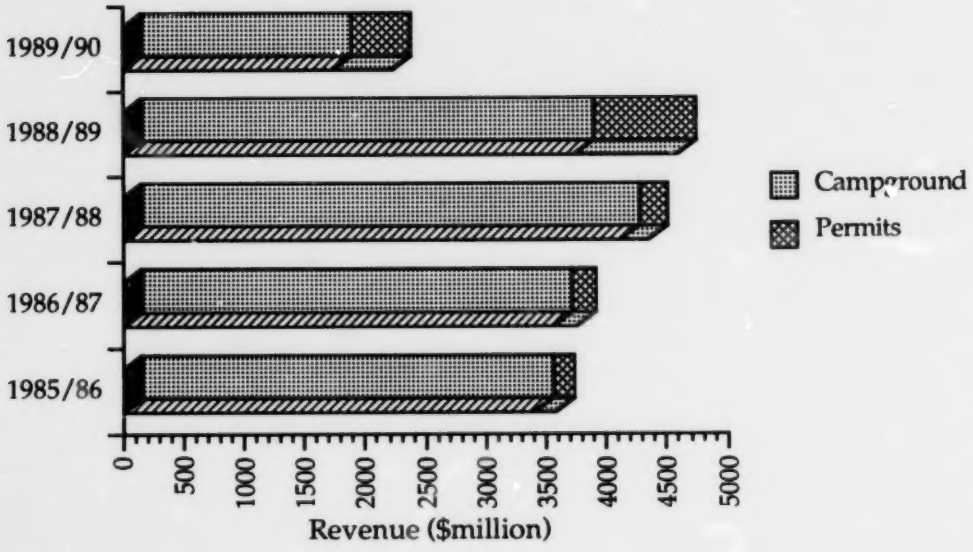
1. Revenues returned to the province from permits for ski areas increased $50,884 to more than $208,100 for 1989/90.
2. The new operation permit program, where permitees operate parks and retain campground revenues, resulted in a return of $126,132 as payment for the operations within three parks.
3. Overall, revenues returned to the province resulting from park/resource use permits amount to $500,722, compared to $840,879 in the 1988/89 fiscal year. During the 1989/90 fiscal year, extraordinary revenue resulting from royalty payments was received for the removal of insect infested trees.

Developing and Upgrading Parks

In 1989/90, the government increased funds for maintaining facilities from $4.3 million to $4.7 million to ensure park facilities are safe and convenient for park users. No funds were spent on new facility development.

This was the second year of a multi-year program aimed at spending an average $1 million per year to upgrade washroom buildings with showers and/or modern toilet facilities. In 1989/90 toilet building enhancements worth $850,000 were completed in Kikomum, Shuswap Lake, Okanagan

Revenue


1989/90
1988/89
1987/88
1986/87
1985/86
0
500
1000
1500
2000
2500
3000
3500
4000
4500
5000
Revenue ($million)
Campground
Permits

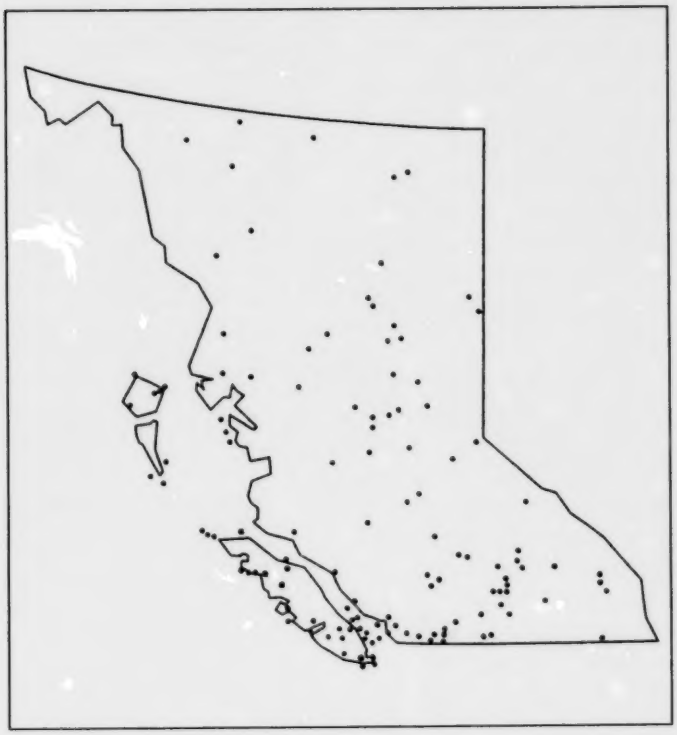
Lake and Lakelse Lake Provincial Parks.

A total of $3.6 million was spent on projects that ensured the continuing health and safety of park visitors and staff. They included such projects as improvements to sewage and water systems and road repairs.

In 1989, users of BC Parks were again beneficiaries of the Ministry of Environment's Youth Corps Program. The program provided an opportunity for youths, 17 to 24 years in age, to work on a variety of outdoor recreation and environmental enhancement projects. Projects within BC Parks included trail improvements, recreation facility development such as shelters and horseshoe pits, and many fish and wildlife habitat enhancements.

The Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail, in central British Columbia, is a special historic and recreation resource managed under a provincial-federal agreement. In 1989, a number of projects were completed, with federal funding assistance, to improve recreational use of the trail.

- *New ecological reserves were created at:*
- *Brackman Island;*
- *Five new reserves in Tsitika River Valley.*



British Columbia Ecological Reserves

Ecological Reserves Management Yearly Comparison

	87/88	88/89	89/90
Number of Reserves	117	117	123
Area of Reserves (000 ha)	154.6	155.2	157.1
Number of Wardens	62	73	78
Number of Research and Educational Permits	40	45	50

Ecological Reserves

Ecological reserves are set aside to preserve samples of representative, rare or endangered ecosystems of British Columbia. They offer long-term research and educational opportunities as well as casual, non-consumptive public uses, such as nature photography and bird watching.

The ecological reserves program, in which representative ecosystems are established, managed and conserved for scientific study, is managed by BC Parks district staff. To assist in this process, statements relating to resource management issues requiring action have been prepared for 49 reserves.

Ecological Reserve Lands

Six new reserves were established in 1989. The 35-hectare Brackman Island Ecological Reserve was established to protect forest and wildflower stands and adjacent marine habitat on a pristine island in the Gulf Islands.

Five new ecological reserves, containing a total of 1776 hectares, were created in the Tsitika Watershed. The Tsitika Mountain reserve, 544 hectares, protects outstanding subalpine wetlands, subalpine forests and a small bog lake. The Mount Derby reserve, 557 hectares, preserves forests in a complete range of altitudes in the watershed. Reserves at Tsitika River, 110 hectares, and Mount Elliot, 324 hectares, include cedar-pine swamps and self-contained subdrainages. Each of these reserves also protects small forested areas. The Claude Elliott reserve, 234 hectares, will serve as a benchmark for forestry research. The reserve encompasses a productive montane forest which includes deer winter range.

With the addition of these reserves, 157,119 hectares are now protected in 123 ecological reserves throughout the province. British Columbia has the largest system of ecological reserves in Canada.

- *Preserve representative, rare or endangered ecosystems*
- *Scientific or educational use*

Reserve Use

The Ecological Reserves Act requires permits for any research or educational activity within an ecological reserve. In 1989/90, 44 permits were issued. Many permits were for the completion of inventories within ecological reserves. Twenty permits were issued for ongoing research. In the Drizzle Lake Reserve on the Queen Charlotte Islands, research continued on a rare type of stickleback fish. Another permit was issued to study the effects of an oil spill on Checleset Bay on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Managing Ecological Reserves

Volunteer wardens are important to the management of ecological reserves. In 1989, five new wardens were added to the roster, bringing the total to 80 volunteers. Volunteer wardens monitor and report on activities in reserves. They are also an important liaison with local communities.

By the end of this fiscal year, scientists and researchers published 923 reports and publications regarding ecological reserves. BC Parks published a new update to the "Guide in Ecological Reserves" in B.C., a beautiful coloured poster for the Duke of Edinburgh ecological reserve, and a new general pamphlet on ecological reserves.

Outdoor Recreation

BC Parks represented the provincial interest in the planning, management and allocation of the province's outdoor recreation resources and administered the Park (Regional Act) Act. It also coordinated the Recreation Corridors Program.

Recreation Corridors

Since the Recreation Corridors Program was created in 1985, the Ministries of Parks and Forests have worked together to plan for management of river- and trail-based recreation opportunities. Before a corridor is registered, the lead ministry consults with the public, the Outdoor Recreation Council and other interested parties.

To date, eight corridors have been registered. Six corridors entirely within provincial parks and recreation areas are:

- Roderick Haig-Brown (Adams River);
- Bowron Lakes;
- Gidnadoix;
- Skagit River;
- Murtle/Mahood/Lower Clearwater (Wells Gray Park); and
- Upper Stikine.

Two corridors primarily outside parks are:

- the Lord Baden-Powell Trail in the North Shore mountains, stretching from Howe Sound to Indian Arm; and
- the Sir Alexander Mackenzie Heritage Trail traversing the Cariboo from the Fraser River to Bella Coola.

The Ministries of Parks and Forests initiated a review of the Recreation Corridors Program.

Recreational Resource Allocation Activities

Regional offices of BC Parks reviewed numerous resource development proposals, such as logging plans and industrial projects, to assess the impact of proposed developments on outdoor recreation. This year, major reviews were undertaken on pulpwood harvesting agreements covering large land areas and a number of BC Hydro sponsored small independent power projects.

- ❑ *Protect public interest in outdoor recreation*
- ❑ *Review development proposals*
- ❑ *8 Registered Recreation Corridors*